

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 8, 2018

Cathy Gautreaux  
Deputy Administrator  
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Admin  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, D.C., 20590

Dear Administrator Gautreaux,

We are writing to you today requesting the Department of Transportation (DOT) clarifies the current exemption for recreational horse trailers from Commercial Driver's License (CDL) regulations. The current exemption is stated in Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 390.3(f)(3) "The occasional transportation of personal property by individuals not for compensation and not in the furtherance of a commercial enterprise." We request a clarification that attendance of an event in which prizes are awarded would continue to qualify for this exemption. Without clarification in regards to this exemption, millions of American who participate in equestrian events will be negatively affected by these over-burdensome regulations.

In light of the recent national conversation concerning DOT regulations, some law enforcement personnel are suggesting CDL regulations require every driver of a vehicle with a gross combination weight of 26,000 pounds or more to have a Class A CDL driver's license. In the past, this regulation was not seen to impact recreational equestrians, even those equestrians who attend competitions that award monetary prizes. Like the rest of the vehicles on the road, pickups and horse trailers have grown larger. Today it is common to find truck and horse trailer combinations that are over the 26,000-pound limit.

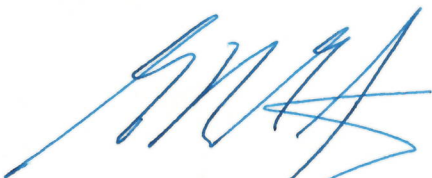
America's equine industry not only plays an essential role in the national economy but also provides entertainment across the country. The American Horse Council Foundation's (AHC) 2005 National Economic Impact Study found that the equine industry contributes approximately \$39 billion in direct economic impact and \$102 billion in indirect economic impact to the U.S. economy. This same study also found almost 4 million horses are used for recreational purposes, making it the largest equestrian activity by over 1.2 million horses.

If CFR 390.3(f)(3) is misunderstood, recreational equestrians would be forced to obtain a CDL in order to drive. This added regulation would reduce non-professional participation at equestrian events and deter recreational horse trips with families. The American tradition on horseback should not be endangered by a misinterpretation of CDL regulations.

Confirming the recreational exemption applies to horse trailers, regardless of destination, would provide regulatory certainty and clear up any confusion. The regulations would continue to be enforced without endangering established transportation practices of the equine community.

Thank you for your consideration. We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



GREG GIANFORTE (MT-AL)  
Member of Congress



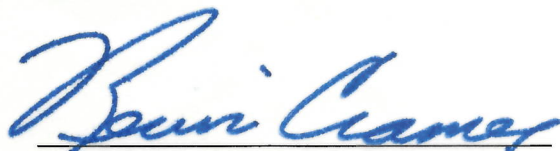
LOUIE GOHMERT (TX-01)  
Member of Congress



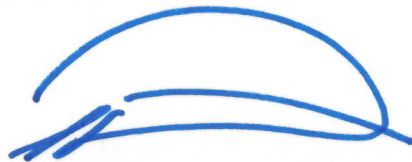
BRIAN BABIN (TX-36)  
Member of Congress



ANDY BARR (KY-06)  
Member of Congress



KEVIN CRAMER (ND-AL)  
Member of Congress



SCOTT DESJARLAIS (TN-04)  
Member of Congress



STEVE PEARCE (NM-02)  
Member of Congress



STEVE KING (IA-04)  
Member of Congress



BILLY LONG (MO-07)  
Member of Congress



TED S. YOHO, D.V.M. (FL-03)  
Member of Congress



JEFF FORTENBERRY (NE-01)  
Member of Congress



KRISTI NOEM (SD-AL)  
Member of Congress





SCOTT TIPTON (CO-03)  
Member of Congress



LIZ CHENEY (WY-AL)  
Member of Congress



JOHN RATCLIFFE (TX-04)  
Member of Congress



CLAY HIGGINS (LA-03)  
Member of Congress



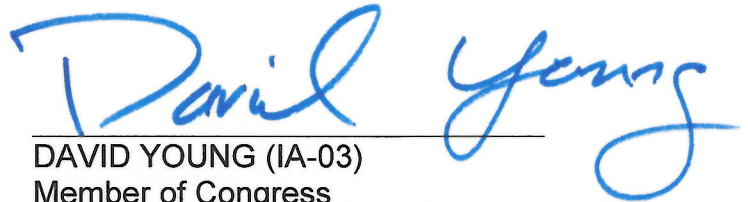
DANIEL WEBSTER (FL-11)  
Member of Congress



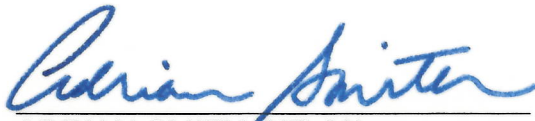
SCOTT PERRY (PA-04)  
Member of Congress



COLLIN C. PETERSON (MN-07)  
Member of Congress



DAVID YOUNG (IA-03)  
Member of Congress




ADRIAN SMITH (NE-03)  
Member of Congress



BRETT GUTHRIE (KY-02)  
Member of Congress



K. MICHAEL CONAWAY (TX-11)  
Member of Congress



MIKE COFFMAN (CO-06)  
Member of Congress



ROB BISHOP (UT-01)  
Member of Congress



TOM GARRETT (VA-05)  
Member of Congress

*Doug Lamborn*

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DOUG LAMBORN (CO-05)

Member of Congress